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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. Cancelled
2. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for topical administration to treat recurrent herpes infections consisting essentially of a synergistic comprising, as sole active drug substances, a combination of 1) an active antiviral ingredient selected from the group consisting of foscarnet, acyclovir, penciclovir, and 9-[4-hydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)butyl]guanine (H2G) or a salt thereof and 2) an active anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid ingredient selected from the group consisting of hydrocortisone and esters thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said synergistic combination of antiviral and glucocorticoid is more effective in treating said herpes infection than either component alone.
3. Cancelled
4. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, wherein the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone.
5. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, wherein the anti-viral is foscarnet and the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone.
6. Cancelled
7. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, wherein the antiviral is acyclovir and the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone.
8. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 wherein said foscarnet is contained in an amount of 0.1-10% (w/w) and said

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hydrocortisone is contained in an amount of 0.005-3% (w/w) based on the weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

9. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 wherein said foscarnet is contained in an amount of 1-5% (w/w) based on the weight of the pharmaceutical composition.
10. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 wherein said foscarnet is contained in an amount of 0.3-3% (w/w) and said hydrocortisone is contained in an amount of 0.25-1% (w/w) based on the weight of the pharmaceutical composition.
11. Cancelled
12. Cancelled
13. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein said acyclovir is contained in an amount of 0.1-10% (w/w) and said hydrocortisone is contained in an amount of 0.005-3% (w/w) based on the weight of the pharmaceutical composition.
14. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein said acyclovir is contained in an amount of 1-5% (w/w) based on the weight of the pharmaceutical composition.
15. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14 wherein said hydrocortisone is contained in an amount of 0.25-1% (w/w) based on the weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

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16. (Previously Presented) A cream, lotion, gel, ointment, plaster, stick or pen containing a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 2, 4, 5, 7-10 and 13-15.

17. Cancelled

18. (Previously Presented) A method for treating recurrent herpes virus infections of the skin or mucous membranes in mammals having or identified as being at risk of developing said infections comprising topically administering thereto, in combination or in sequence, a therapeutically synergistic dose of an active antiviral ingredient selected from the group consisting of foscarnet, acyclovir, penciclovir and 9-[4-hydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)butyl]guanine (H2G) or a salt thereof and an active anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid ingredient selected from the group consisting of hydrocortisone and esters thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said synergistic dose of antiviral and glucocorticoid is more effective than either component used alone.

19. Cancelled

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the antiviral substance is foscarnet and the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone, or an ester thereof.

22. Cancelled

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the antiviral substance is acyclovir, or a salt thereof, and the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone, or an ester thereof.

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24. (Currently Amended) A method for treating recurrent herpes virus infections of the skin or mucous membranes in mammals having or identified as being at risk of developing said infections comprising topically administering thereto a therapeutic dose of a topically acceptable composition according to any one of claims 2, 4, 5, 7-10 and 13-15.
25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24 wherein the composition is contained in a cream, lotion, gel, ointment, plaster, stick or pen.
26. Cancelled
27. (Previously Presented) A method according to any one of claims 18, 20, 21 and 23, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 1 to 10 times per day.
28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 3 to 4 times per day.
29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 1 to 10 times per day.
30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 3 to 4 times per day.
31. (Previously Presented) A method according to any one of claims 18, 20, 21 and 23 wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered in combination and are contained in a cream, lotion, gel, ointment, plaster, stick or pen.
32. Cancelled

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33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 1 to 10 times per day.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 3 to 4 times per day.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 1 to 10 times per day.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 3 to 4 times per day.

37. Cancelled

38. Cancelled

39. Cancelled

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said antiviral is acyclovir and said anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone.